

**Mayor**  
Scott T. Ramsey

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Janet L. Heston  
Clarkson J. Klipple  
Christopher J. Prack  
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**Town Administrator & Clerk**  
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February 22, 2011

Mr. Keith Brower, Chief  
Loudoun County Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Management  
803 Sycolin Road, SE - Suite 104  
Leesburg, VA. 20175

Dear Chief Brower:

I am sending this letter to clarify the position of the Town of Round Hill with respect to the locking of fire hydrants.

As you know, it is the responsibility of the Town of Round Hill to provide, secure and maintain hydrants for use by both the Town and the Fire Department. Water thefts and tampering are serious issues, especially for our system which has been in mandatory water restrictions recently due to drought conditions. Furthermore, the locks we have installed are designed for hydrants and to be immediately accessible in emergency situations with available tools such as bolt-cutters or a halligan bar.

We cannot use your Knox locks as the sole access control to our hydrants since they would prevent us from maintaining the hydrants and our water system. This is because of Loudoun County's policy, in contrast to ours, of not providing keys.

We have balanced our concerns with yours by only installing locks in undeveloped areas most at risk for unauthorized tampering and by offering copies of the master key to your personnel. These keys will be available at any time at our town office or from our utility staff for storage with your Knox key. Your refusal to accept a key in no way implies a refusal on our part to provide access.

If the county were to provide us with Knox locks and keys we would be pleased to replace our current locks. As an alternative in lieu of providing keys, the county can provide bars with holes at either end so that the County and Round Hill can each attach its own independent lock to the hydrants.

As I hope you understand, we are not limiting your access in any way. And we are offering you three different alternatives to resolve your concerns – accept our keys, provide us your locks and keys, or provide us your locks and bars so that we may each use our own locks. I hope you find one of those to be the solution to your problem.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Ramsey', written in a cursive style.

Scott Ramsey, Mayor

cc:

Randall Shank, Deputy Chief  
John Sandy, County Administration  
Melissa Spring, Deputy County Attorney  
John Barkley, Town Administrator  
Maureen Gilmore, Town Attorney  
Town Council, Town of Round Hill